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Stravaganza: City Of Ships



Synopsis

In the Talian town of Classe, magic and piracy come to life. Isabel, a younger twin by a matter of minutes, is transported there by her talisman-a pouch of silver mosaic tiles. Once she stragglers to Classe, she meets Flavia, a successful female merchant whose son is an outcast and a pirate. Isabel discovers that Classe is under threat of attack, but what can she do to save the city?

Book Information

Series: Stravaganza

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Fantasy

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Isabel always feels like the runner up when it comes to her and her brother. She's not as smart, athletic, or popular as him. When she falls asleep with mosaic tiles she found in an Italian style bag at school and suddenly wakes up in Classe, a Talian town, all that changes. Classe is in danger of being attacked and it seems Isabel is the only one who can save them. You know those books that stay with you, even when you've closed them for the night? 'City of Ships' by Mary Hoffman is a perfect example of a book that does just that. 'City of Ships' is written drastically different from the other books in the Stravaganza series. With the number of London based Stravaganti growing, the story is based as equally in Talia as it is the real world. This change, while startling at first, made for an interesting look at the current Stravaganti in London. I couldn't imagine having the power to go from Talia each night and not have it effect regular, daily life. It was nice to see the relationships

between those who have traveled to Talia and how those travelers related to those who haven't traveled to Talia. And, I have to say, I always get a kick out of when the old Stravaganti figure out who the 'current' one is (in this case Isabel), leaving the 'current' Stravaganti to figure out why they're so interesting all of a sudden. It still makes me smile. And that little bit of romance between Isabel and another Stravaganti? Loved it. Isabel wasn't annoying. Quite the opposite, I liked her perspective. She could have come off as whiny, as characters usually do when jealous of a sibling, but she doesn't. She has quite a grown up air to herself, actually. As always, the characters in Talia are fantastic.

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